



Overview of Force Multiplier Sessions

Ocean and coastal ecosystems are some of our most important environmental assets. They support livelihoods and food security, protect us from storms, and provide recreational opportunities. The coastal regions of the world are where most of us live, work and play. About forty percent of the world's population lives within 100 kilometers of the sea, causing tremendous stress on the ocean and coastal environment.

The following four Force Multiplier sessions will communicate the benefits of our ocean and coasts and the risks to coastal communities if we do not sustain these valuable assets. They will showcase how healthy oceans and coasts are linked to economic security, food security, human health and the resilience of coastal communities worldwide. The panels will preview ideas, solutions and specific actions on how to promote ocean stewardship through the power of markets such as tourism and sustainable fisheries, as well as the value of nature or the blue economy, including habitat for fish, storm protection, and filtration for clean water. Discussions will address efforts to promote food security and the role fisheries and marine resources conservation plays in feeding a burgeoning global population. They will examine the need for sound policies, scientific research and conservation strategies as they relate to promoting ocean health and understanding the effects of a changing climate to our marine environment.

All four sessions will identify concrete next steps, innovations and future actions to support healthy and sustainable oceans and coasts around the world.